

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An information device for use with an engine of a vehicle, the information device ~~including~~ comprising:
 - a lighting ~~means~~ device for providing information about a power position of the vehicle; [[,]]
 - an engine running detection device for detecting engine running; [[,]]
 - a gear shift position detection device for detecting gear shift position; [[,]] and
 - an illuminance control device for controlling illuminance of the lighting device so that, when a detection is made by the engine running detection device that the engine is running and by the gear shift position detection device that the gear shift position is other than in a P range or a N range, the illuminance control device reduces the illuminance of the lighting device compared with the illuminance of the lighting device when the gear shift position is in the P range or the N range.
2. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the illuminance control device is operable so that, when the illuminance of the lighting device has been reduced and a detection is made by the engine running detection device and the gear shift position detection device that the operating situation has become one where the gear shift position is in the P range or the N range from an operating situation where the engine was running and the gear shift position was other than in the P range or the N range, the illuminance of the lighting device is increased.

3. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising

a vehicle speed detection device for detecting vehicle speed, wherein the illuminance control device is operable to alter the illuminance of the lighting device in response to the detected vehicle speed.

4. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the illuminance control device is operable to reduce the illuminance of the lighting device, in comparison with when the vehicle speed is less than a fixed value of vehicle speed, when a detection is made by the vehicle speed detection device that the vehicle speed is greater than the fixed value.

5. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the illuminance control device is operable to increase the illuminance of the lighting device when a detection is made by the vehicle speed detection device that the operating situation has changed from one in which the vehicle speed was above a fixed value to an operating situation where the vehicle speed is reduced below the fixed value.

6. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the illuminance control device is operable so as to extinguish the lighting device when the illuminance is reduced.

7. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting device is mountable within a vehicle instrument panel.
8. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting device is provided in an engine start switch.
9. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lighting device is provided in a power position indicator lamp.
10. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the illuminance control device includes a CPU of an engine control unit.
11. (Currently Amended) An information device for use with an engine of a vehicle, the information device ~~including~~ comprising:
 - a lighting device for providing information about a power position of the vehicle,
 - a vehicle speed detection device for detecting vehicle speed, and
 - an illuminance control device for controlling illuminance of said lighting device in response to vehicle speed so that, when a detection is made that the vehicle speed is less than a fixed value of vehicle speed the illuminance of the lighting device is increased compared with the illuminance of the lighting device when the vehicle speed is higher than the fixed value.

12. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 11,
wherein

the illuminance control device is operable to reduce the illuminance of the lighting device, in comparison with when the vehicle speed is less than the fixed value of vehicle speed, when a detection is made by the vehicle speed detection device that the vehicle speed is greater than the fixed value.

13. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 11,
wherein

the illuminance control device is operable to increase the illuminance of the lighting device when a detection is made by the vehicle speed detection device that the operating situation has changed from one in which the vehicle speed was above the fixed value to an operating situation where the vehicle speed is reduced below the fixed value.

14. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 12,
wherein

the illuminance control device is operable so as to extinguish the lighting device when the illuminance is reduced.

15. A method of displaying power position information in a vehicle, the method ~~including~~ comprising:

providing a lighting device for providing information about a power position of the vehicle; [[,]]

detecting whether the engine is running or not running; [[,]]

detecting an engine gear shift position; [[,]] and

controlling illuminance of said lighting device in response to the detection engine running condition and the detected engine gear shift position so that the illuminance is reduced in comparison with an operating situation where the engine is running and the gear shift position is in a P or N range when a detection is made of an operating situation where the engine is running and the gear shift position is other than in the P or N range.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, ~~including~~ further comprising

extinguishing the lighting device altogether during the step of reducing the illuminance.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising

detecting vehicle speed and altering the illuminance of the lighting device by the illuminance control device in response to the detected vehicle speed.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 17, ~~including~~ further comprising

reducing the illuminance of the lighting device, in comparison with when the vehicle speed is less than a fixed value of vehicle speed, when a detection is made by the vehicle speed detection device that the vehicle speed is greater than the fixed value.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 17, ~~including~~ further comprising

increasing the illuminance of the lighting device when a detection is made by the vehicle speed detection device that the operating situation has changed from one in which the vehicle speed was above a fixed value to an operating situation where the vehicle speed is reduced below the fixed value.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying power position information in a vehicle, the method ~~including;~~ comprising:

providing a lighting device for providing information about a power position of the vehicle; [[,]]

detecting the vehicle speed; [[,]]

comparing the detected vehicle speed with a fixed value of vehicle speed, and

controlling illuminance of said lighting device in response to the comparison so that the illuminance is reduced in comparison with an operating situation where the vehicle speed is less than the fixed value of vehicle speed when the comparison indicates that an operating situation has a vehicle speed greater than the fixed value of vehicle speed.

21. (Currently Amended) An information device for use with an engine of a vehicle, the information device ~~including;~~ comprising:

lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ for providing information about a power position of the vehicle; [[,]]

engine running detection means ~~(70, 71)~~ for detecting engine running; [[,]]

gear shift position detection means ~~(60, 61)~~ for detecting gear shift position; ~~[[,]]~~ and illuminance control means ~~(20)~~ for controlling illuminance of the lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ so that, when a detection is made by the engine running detection means ~~(70, 71)~~ that the engine is running and by the gear shift position detection means ~~(60, 61)~~ that the gear shift position is other than in a P range or a N range, the illuminance control means ~~(20)~~ reduces the illuminance of the lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ compared with the illuminance of the lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ when the gear shift position is in the P range or the N range.

22. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 21, wherein

the illuminance control means is operable so that, when the illuminance of the lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ has been reduced and a detection is made by the engine running detection means ~~(10)~~ and the gear shift position detection means ~~(60, 61)~~ that the operating situation has become one where the gear shift position is in the P range or the N range from an operating situation where the engine was running and the gear shift position was other than in the P range or the N range, the illuminance of the lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ is increased.

23. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 21 ~~or claim 22~~, further comprising

vehicle speed detection means ~~(81)~~ for detecting vehicle speed, wherein the illuminance control means ~~(20)~~ is operable to alter the illuminance of the lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ in response to the detected vehicle speed.

24. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 23,
wherein

the illuminance control means (20) is operable to reduce the illuminance of the
lighting means (27, 28), in comparison with when the vehicle speed is less than a fixed value
of vehicle speed, when a detection is made by the vehicle speed detection means (81) that the
vehicle speed is greater than the fixed value.

25. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 24,
wherein

the illuminance control means (20) is operable so as to extinguish the lighting means
(27, 28) when the illuminance is reduced.

26. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~claims 23 to 25~~ claim 23, wherein

the illuminance control means (20) is operable to increase the illuminance of the
lighting means (27, 28) when a detection is made by the vehicle speed detection means (81)
that the operating situation has changed from one in which the vehicle speed was above a
fixed value of vehicle speed to an operating situation where the vehicle speed is reduced
below the fixed value.

27. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in ~~any one of~~
~~claims 21 to 26~~ claim 21, wherein

the lighting means (27, 28) is mountable within a vehicle instrument panel.

28. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 21 to 27~~ claim 21, wherein

the lighting means is provided in an engine start switch ~~(10)~~.

29. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 21 to 28~~ claim 21, wherein

the lighting means is provided in a power position indicator lamp ~~(27)~~.

30. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 21 to 29~~ claim 21, wherein

the illuminance control means includes a CPU ~~(23)~~ of an engine control unit ~~(20)~~.

31. (Currently Amended) An information device for use with an engine of a vehicle, the information device ~~including;~~ comprising:

lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ for providing information about a power position of the vehicle; ~~[[,]]~~

vehicle speed detection means ~~(81)~~ for detecting vehicle speed; ~~[[,]]~~ and

illuminance control means ~~(20)~~ for controlling illuminance of the lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ in response to vehicle speed so that, when a detection is made that the vehicle speed is less than a fixed value of vehicle speed the illuminance of the lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ is increased compared with the illuminance of the lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ when the vehicle speed is higher than the fixed value.

32. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 31,
wherein

the illuminance control means ~~(20)~~ is operable to reduce the illuminance of the
lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~, in comparison with when the vehicle speed is less than a fixed value
of vehicle speed, when a detection is made by the vehicle speed detection means ~~(81)~~ that the
vehicle speed is greater than the fixed value of vehicle speed.

33. (Currently Amended) The information device as claimed in claim 32,
wherein

the illuminance control means ~~(20)~~ is operable so as to extinguish the lighting means
~~(27, 28)~~ when the illuminance is reduced.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying power position information in
a vehicle, the method ~~including~~; comprising:

providing a lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ for providing information about a power position
of the vehicle; [[,]]

detecting whether the engine is running or not running; [[,]]

detecting an engine gear shift position; [[,]] and

controlling illuminance of said lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ in response to the detection
engine running condition and the detected engine gear shift position so that the illuminance is
reduced in comparison with an operating situation where the engine is running and the gear
shift position is in a P or N range when a detection is made of an operating situation where
the engine is running and the gear shift position is other than in the P or N range.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying power position information in a vehicle, the method ~~including~~; comprising:

providing a lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ for providing information about a power position of the vehicle; [[,]]

detecting the vehicle speed; [[,]]

comparing the detected vehicle speed with a fixed value of vehicle speed; [[,]] and

controlling illuminance of said lighting means ~~(27, 28)~~ in response to the comparison so that the illuminance is reduced in comparison with an operating situation where the vehicle speed is less than the fixed vehicle speed when the comparison indicates that an operating situation has a vehicle speed greater than the fixed value of vehicle speed.

36. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 34 ~~or claim 35~~, ~~including~~ further comprising

providing the lighting means in at least one of an engine start switch ~~(28)~~ or a power position indicator lamp ~~(27)~~.